

The Iowa Council on Homelessness

DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, March 29, 2016

10:00 AM

Meeting Location: The Iowa Finance Authority

Room: Presentation Room

Address: 2015 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50312

(Any requests for corrections to the minutes should be submitted to amber.lewis@iowa.gov)

SPECIAL EVENT

Mr. David Jamison, Executive Director of Iowa Finance Authority addressed the Iowa Council on Homelessness attendees, thanked them for their work, then introduced Governor Terry Branstad. Governor Branstad thanked Iowa Finance Authority and the Iowa Council on Homelessness for good work reducing homelessness around the state of Iowa. He stated the partnership between Iowa Council and Homelessness and Iowa Finance Authority was critical to solving a complex issue like homelessness. Finding shelter is a very important part of addressing homelessness. In 2015, over 13,000 Iowans were served by homeless programs in our state. Of those 13,000 Iowans, 90% were homeless for the first time. Many were suffering from a disability, were an adult head of family or were a veteran. Preventing homelessness is the best possible way to address homelessness. The state has made significant investment in the mental health through the Mental Health Redesign program and the efforts of the Iowa Health and Wellness plan that is now insuring more people than ever before with medical coverage.

Since 2013, the state has invested of 310 million dollars in mental health and disability programs. Just yesterday we highlighted the progress made in getting people with disabilities employment. Iowa now ranks third in the country behind North Dakota and South Dakota and we are very proud of the progress we have made in that program.

Governor Branstad recently announced three new residency programs in psychiatry, which received funding from the state and once those programs are fully up and running, we will be producing 10 psychiatrists each year through this residency program. That is an area where we have a critical shortage.

Job creation continues to be a top priority of this administration. We want to make sure Iowans have the skills for the jobs being created. As the Lt. Governor and I travel the state we hear from a lot of employers that they have good jobs, but can't find people with the right skill set. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers are among the fastest growing and the best paying. The demand for STEM skills cross many sectors from agri-business to advance manufacturing, finance, IT and bio sciences.

Preventing and ending veterans homeless is an issue that is very important to all of us. The Home Base Iowa initiative we started a few years ago to assist veterans in making the transition to civilian life has been quite successful. The initiative helps veterans find jobs and streamlines

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licensing for state professions and provides some incentives for veterans to buy homes. The Home Base Iowa program is an example of state and local government working together, as well as a great collaboration with both private sector business communities and education. Home Base Iowa is an example of a program that is really working and in fact over 2,050 people have found jobs since we started and we now have over 30 Home base Iowa communities and most of those are in counties around the state

The State of Iowa is making significant investments in our work force and our future. There is a Ready Iowa Summit coming up April 19th. It is an opportunity to prepare people with skills for jobs. It is a daylong summit focusing on aligning education, workforce development and economic development.

Some big employers like HyVee and Caseys have been instrumental in helping us achieve this growth in job opportunities for veterans. With limited resources at the local state and federal level, there is a great need for collaboration with the private sector. Innovative thinking is an important part of solving the homelessness problem.

Governor Branstad stated he is very appreciative of the leadership that Mr. Jamison and IFA have provided and he thanked everyone for giving their time and talent to help on the Iowa Council on Homelessness to address this critical issue and at this time he would take questions.

A suggestion was made about the possibility of a check off box on tax returns to donate money for homeless projects. Governor Branstad said that would have to be done through the legislature.

Another suggestion was made that agencies work together in a collaborative way so that one agency knows what the others are doing and there is no missed opportunities to work together. Governor Branstad said he meets monthly with department heads in clusters of about 6 or 7 at a time. Often there is an opportunity for collaboration that could maximize federal assistance.

A question was brought up about what to do to address veteran's homelessness. Governor Branstad replied that Col. King is going a great job as Director of Veterans Affairs and every county has a county director for veteran's affairs. In the past few years we have been able to dramatically increase the amount of assistance coming to veterans. We work closely with veterans organizations. Veterans have the support of the VFW, AmVets, American Legion, etc. The Veterans Administration does provide health care and that's a critical problem. Many veterans have problems from their service and we want to do all we can so they can become productive member of society and don't become homeless.

The last question posed was about the minimum wage. The National Low Income Housing Alliance says in Iowa the Average hourly wage needed to afford a 2 bedroom apartment is \$13.46 per hour, far more than the \$7.25 hourly wage. With the lack of affordable housing, so many people are falling into homelessness because they don't have the income. What can be done to increase the hourly wage? Governor Branstad replied that he didn't think the legislature was going to support that this year.

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I ICN ETIQUETTE REVIEW

Chair Bruskern reminded participants to ask to be recognized and to state their name.

II INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:25 AM by Chairman Brustkern. The following voting members were present: , Beilke-McCallum, Benne, Binner, Brand, Brustkern, Coleman, Dunnwald, Fisher, Ford, Jordal, Hagen, Hamilton, Hearn, Johnson, Lauterbach, Mather, Peterson, Schwalm, Swope, Wahl, and Wilson. A quorum was established.

III APPROVAL OF AGENDA (*ACTION ITEM*)

Mr. Beilke-McCallum made a motion to move a presentation from Iowa Department of Education Child Care Assistance ahead of committee reports. The motion was seconded by Ms. Johnson and the agenda for the March 29, 2016 Iowa Council on Homelessness meeting was unanimously approved with the change.

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES (*ACTION ITEM*)

On motion by Mr. Beilke-McCallum and seconded by Mr. Lauterbach, the meeting minutes for the January 15, 2016 Iowa Council on Homelessness meeting were unanimously approved.

V SPECIAL REPORT

Iowa Department of Education Child Care Assistance Program

Ryan Page

Regulatory Program Manager for Child Care

The Child Care development Block Grant was reauthorized at the Federal level. There are a lot of changes that are mandated for all states to implement. A couple of things affect the quality of child care in Iowa. One change is there will be different types of inspection requirements. Currently, those that received child care assistance dollars have to recertify their qualifications every six months. That requirement moves to twelve months. Applicants can apply and stay on unless you have a non-temporary change, such as losing a job. That non-temporary change does not have to be reported right away. They have ninety days to find a new one before reporting. Another change is exit eligibility. Currently if they are over 145% of the poverty level, they do not qualify for state Child Care Assistance. If they get raises, they could get bumped off for going over the 145%. What we are looking at doing is raising it to 185% so those small changes do not have to be reported. They will be able to take a raise and/or take a different job without getting kicked off of state Child Care Assistance. If they reapply, after the twelve months and are not above the 185% which is around 267% of the Federal poverty level, we will keep them on for a year so there is some continuity for assistance. That will allow them to get an education, a raise in income without losing the assistance.

We also need to have providers enroll families that don't have documentation. We will be able to give a sixty day window that allows them time to get the documentation so that those children can get enrolled into programs. Licensed child care centers and child care development homes are going to be trained to accept those families. Non registered providers that receive state Child Care Assistance will be inspected annually after October 1st. They will be required to meet

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certain health and safety requirements. All child care providers across the state are going to be required to have twelve hours of training with specific content areas identified.

VI COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE REPORTS

Executive Committee (*Ben Brustkern*): Mr. Brustkern reported the Committee met and signed letters of support for two applications for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Homeless Demonstration set aside competition. Both projects are in Cedar Rapids, Patriot Place and Crestwood Ridge Apartments.

The committee also discussed using the \$5,000.00 - \$7,000.00 left over from the legislature for training.

Mr. Brustkern reported the committee meets every third Friday of non-ICH meeting months. The next meeting is Friday, April 15th at 10:00 a.m.

Nominating Committee (*Ben Brustkern*): Mr. Brustkern noted that meetings are scheduled to regularly occur on the second Tuesday of non-ICH meeting months. He mentioned that if you are interested in serving on the council, submit an application on line apply via the Governor's <https://openup.iowa.gov/> website and check the Iowa Council on Homelessness.

The Committee met, but did not have quorum, so a motion is needed from the floor with a second and approval to put forth names of individuals for council approval.

They are: Diogenes Ayala from the Des Moines area

Jessica Bleile is from the Dubuque area

Joanie Poore is from Council Bluffs

Paige Boyer is from Iowa City

Mike Wood is from the Sioux City area

Mr. Lauterbach made a motion to accept membership requests and Mr. Beilke-McCallum seconded the motion and motion was unanimously approved.

The next item up is membership renewals. Julie Bockenstedt and David Boss are not renewing. Most of the following individuals have expressed an interest in renewing. They are Blair Avitt, Allan Axen, Kristine Harris, Dennis Lauterbach, Zeb Beilke-McCallum, David Binner, Carrie Dunnwald, and Rhonda Jordal. A motion was made to accept renewals from those interested, the motion was seconded and was unanimously approved.

The last item of business is the council leadership. We need a Vice Chair and it is in the Bylaws that they must come from the Department side at this time. I would like to see Mr. Wilson come back as Secretary. Mr. Beilke-McCallum made a motion for next year's leadership to be Mr. Brustkern as Chair, Ms. Ford as vice chair and Mr. Wilson as Secretary. Mr. Lauterbach seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Continuum of Care Committee (*Tim Wilson*): Mr. Wilson reported the committee met in March and completed an appeals policy, but waiting on Mr. Walkers' review before asking for Council approval.

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Tier I of COC awards are posted on the IFA Web site and I am confident we will have site visits for those that made Tier I. Tier II awards should be coming out soon.

Ms. Lewis reported that through the COC, a \$207,000.00 Planning Grant was also approved. This is a first and it is for one year only. We plan to use it to develop and support a regional system of care, such as coordinated entry in different areas. Also use it to coordinate the Point-in-Time count to get good data from areas. More details to come soon.

Coordinated Entry Committee (*Carrie Dunnwald*): The Coordinated Entry committee sent out a survey to all COC, SSVF, ESG and SAF funded programs to find out who would be interested in developing a Coordinated Entry system in their region. We received 11 responses with 6 programs saying they would be willing to be the responsible entity for their Coordinated entry. There are 31 counties left untouched. Another meeting scheduled for April 5th is to work through the survey to figure out the next steps. The committee also plans to get in touch with the Nebraska Balance of State because they have a fully functioning coordinated entry process and find out how they are doing.

Coordinated entry committee meetings are held third Tuesday of every month at 2:30

Research & Analysis Committee (*David Hagen*): Mr. Hagen reported that the next meeting is April 28th face to face in the Coralville Public Library. Everyone is welcome to attend. One of the things that came from the collaborative application for the COC last year was a point section question “do you have a review and program evaluation process in place for all your COC funded grantees” We have been trying to take a look at that and pull data from existing services. We want to take a look at what grantees state they are going to do with their grant and see if there is some way to measure what they say they will do and what they actually are doing

Policy & Planning Committee (*Carrie Dunnwald*): Ms. Dunnwald reported 6 to 7 programs have been identified across the state, that are willing to be pilots to work their way through the Iowa Quality standards that were developed. The State Public Policy Group will be meeting with them to help them get up and going. The Pilot time frame starts April 1st through June 15th. There should be enough time to put together a report by the end of June to talk about what worked well and what changes should be made to the standards to be more user friendly.

Public Awareness Committee (*David Binner*): Mr. Binner reported that the Annual Day on the Hill was a success and was pleased that Governor Branstad came to address the Iowa Council on Homelessness today. They hope to pick up more public awareness at Home Forward Iowa. They had their initial meeting and are adding more board members. They hope to dove tail with what is going on with the Iowa Council on Homelessness. The next meeting will be set up soon. We are also looking for someone to co-chair our committee.

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VII HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS) REPORT

Ms. Eberbach provided an update on the Point in Time count taken at the end of January. Assessments and calculations of the data are almost all done now. They are doing some evaluation of totals and the data and comparing with last year to help with identifying where numbers changed and specifically those changes in numbers that might affect the upcoming COC application. One item reported by providers that was found in the HIC, was a significant reduction in beds available for chronically homeless individuals. Ms. Eberbach is comparing the HIC to the COC applications and will be reporting back to IFA her findings. Those providers will be contacted to discuss how they reported on the HIC. This will be done proactively before reporting to HUD, because once those numbers are reported to HUD, they cannot be changed. It's on the performance for the COC application when it comes up this year. At the next council meeting, there will be a full presentation on the PIT numbers and changes in inventory.

The next item is an action item and Ms. Eberbach provided the council with two documents. This is a recommendation to the Council on establishment of an Iowa balance of state data sharing group. The first page of the documentation has the actual text to the recommendation. The Institute worked with a committee of volunteers that looked over the material and discussed the potential of the establishment of a data sharing group. Those on the committee were Crissy Adamson, Crissy Canganelli, Amber Lewis, Jim Cain, Carrie Slagle, Susan McGuire, Ben Brustkern and Dedre Henriques along with three staff members from the Institute. We have also provided an explanation of what "closed with exceptions" mean and we discussed training considerations. There would be no costs to the agencies. If any region wants to do centralized intake, this is the first step. A motion to accept the report was made by Mr. Binner and motion seconded by Mr. Lauterbach. The motion was approved.

VIII IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY UPDATES

Ms. Lewis reported that four projects expressed interest in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit competition which just closed. Our goal is to fund one demonstration set aside project. Two full applications made the deadline. Both are in Cedar Rapids and Waypoint and Willis Dady will be providing support.

IX OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Beilke-McCallum reported legislation about protecting victims of domestic violence and other crimes from being evicted for calling the police has passed through sub committees and is now out for debate on the Senate floor. He urges everyone to contact your legislators to support House File 493.

Ms. Lewis wanted to remind everyone about the HUD symposium June 8th and 9th that is being held at Grandview University in Des Moines.

Ms. Fisher attended a conference session where HUD personnel were presenting. A conference attendee asked if COC's loose points if Transitional Housing is in Tier I. The answer was yes. They understand some Transitional Housing is necessary, but moving toward Rapid Rehousing

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is less expensive. She also learned that the environmental review process is going to go away. There will be a check list to complete.

Ms. Eberbach reported on the City of Des Moines Functional Zero Celebration.

Des Moines/Polk County undertook the “Mayors Challenge to End Veterans’ Homelessness”. Mayor Cownie accepted that challenge at the National Mayors Conference in May of 2014. In December of 2014 and January of 2015, the team began working in earnest. Then in January of 2016, based on data and calculations of all Federal benchmarks, the City of Des Moines was able to establish and affect an end to veterans’ homelessness.

In Des Moines, veterans can be housed quickly within 49 days once they have been identified, which is well below the federal benchmark of 90 days.

The community capacity, they found there are fewer vets coming into the system than are being housed and the community demonstrates a readiness and the ability to offer a Housing First model and that means there are fewer vets taking advantage of the grant per diem and more veterans utilizing HUD VASH and SSVF to go into housing. The team met twice a month for all of 2015 and reviewed and updated a progress report of every known veteran. They now meet once a month.

X OLD BUSINESS

None.

XI NEW BUSINESS

None.

XII PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

XIII ADJOURN

On motion by Mr. Beilke-McCallum and seconded by Mr. Wilson, the March 29, 2016, meeting of the Iowa Council on Homelessness was adjourned at approximately 11:30 AM.

The date of the next regular meeting is Friday, May 20, at 10:00 AM at the Iowa Finance Authority located at 2015 Grand Avenue in Des Moines.

Voting Members Present

1. Zeb Beilke-McCallum, Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
2. Steven Benne, Iowa Economic Development Authority
3. David Binner, Wells Fargo
4. Bill Brand, Dept. of Human Rights
5. Ben Brustkern (Vice Chair), Cedar Valley Friends of the Family
6. Chris Coleman, Iowa League of Cities
7. Carrie Dunnwald, Cedar Valley Friends of the Family
8. Mariliegh Fisher, Community Housing Initiatives

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9. Karin Ford, Iowa Department of Public Health
10. Rhonda Jordal, Family Alliance for Veterans of America
11. David Hagen, Hawkeye Area Community Action Program
12. Karin Hamilton, Iowa Department of Public Safety
13. Ann Hearn, Linn County Community Services
14. Sandy Johnson, Iowa Department of Education
15. Dennis Lauterbach, Lutheran Services in Iowa
16. Scott Mather, Iowa Workforce Development
17. Wes Peterson, Iowa Finance Authority
18. Ashley Schwalm, Family Resources
19. D.J. Swope, Iowa Department on Aging
20. Roberta Wahl, Des Moines Area Community College
21. Tim Wilson (Secretary), Home Forward Iowa

Voting Members Absent

1. Blair Avitt (Consumer Representative), Des Moines
- 1 David Boss (Consumer Representative), Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation
2. Kristine Harris, (Consumer Representative), Cedar Valley Friends of the Family
3. Stefanie Munsterman-Robinson, Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity
4. Donna Phillips (Chair), Iowa Attorney General's Office
5. John Walker, Oelwein
6. Bob Steben, Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
7. Julie Bergeson, Iowa Department on Aging
8. Julie Bockenstedt, Iowa City
9. Al Axeen (Immediate Past Chair), Coralville
10. Bill Brand, Iowa Department on Human Rights
11. Anne Brown, Iowa Department of Corrections
12. Crissy Canganelli, Shelter House
13. Jamie Cashman, Iowa State Association of Counties
14. Karen Hyatt (alt. for Armstrong), Iowa Department of Human Services
15. Tony Timm, AmeriHealth Caritas
16. Nancy Schulze, Heartland Family Services

Others Present

1. Kathy Meiers, Humility of Mary Shelter
2. Kathy Jordan, Humility of Mary Shelter
3. Theresa Baxter, City of Dubuque
4. Julie Eberbach, Institute for Community Alliances
5. Pam Eggers, YWCA Clinton
6. David Hicks, Youth & Shelter Services
7. Jonna Hicks, U.N.I.
8. Amy Keairns, City of Sioux City
9. Jennie Kerger, The Salvation Army
10. Amber Lewis, Iowa Finance Authority

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11. Laura Lindsay, Family Alliance for Veterans of America
12. Tim Shanahan, Hawthorn Hill
13. Laurel Merrick, Area Substance Abuse Council
14. Paula Morgan, Community Action of Southeast Iowa
15. Kim Motl, Upper Des Moines Opportunity
16. Kristin Mulholland, Crisis Intervention & Advocacy Center
17. Dennis Ostrander, Community Action of Southeast Iowa
18. Jan Rutledge, Iowa Legal Aid
19. Vicki Summers, Fort Dodge Housing
20. Jennifer Tibbetts, Catherine McAuley Center
21. Roberta Milinsky, Youth & Shelter Services
22. Megan Millsap, Crisis Intervention & Advocacy Center
23. Karrie Anne Burke, Wartburg
24. Hope Matheny, Youth & Shelter Services
25. Erin Wright, Institute for Community Alliances
26. Kristine Frakes, Institute for Community Alliances
27. Cindy Rybolt, Iowa Legal Aid
28. Justin Bogers, Goodwill
29. Carrie Slagle, Waypoint
30. J. Peterman, Waypoint
31. Janet Walker, City of Dubuque
32. Michell Brown, Opening Doors
33. Michael Moss
34. Latoya Lewis
35. Michael Whitman
36. Linda Mondenach
37. Judy Hartman, Iowa Finance Authority